

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated May 9, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed.

With this response, claims 1 and 3-7 are amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-7 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,949,890 to Chou et al. (hereinafter “Chou”). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of US Patent Publication 2002/0030993 to Itoh (hereinafter “Itoh”). Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of US Patent 6,992,736 to Saito et al. (hereinafter “Saito”). Claims 1 and 3-7 are objected to by the Examiner as containing informalities.

The rejection to claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,949,890 to Chou is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

The present application claims the benefit of foreign priority to Korean Patent Application No. 2002-58725, filed on September 27, 2002. The effective reference date of Chou, however, is February 6, 2003. Therefore, the foreign priority filing date of September 27, 2002 antedates Chou. Applicants filed a certified copy of Korean Patent Application No. 2002-58725 on January 23, 2004 and, by the present response, hereby perfect the present claim to foreign priority by submitting a certified English language translation of Korean Patent Application No. 2002-58725. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Chou is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and request withdrawal of the present rejection to claims 1, 3, and 4.

The rejections to claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view of Itoh is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants submit that Chou is unavailable as prior art based on the perfection of foreign priority as discussed above. The Examiner has previously acknowledged that Itoh alone does not teach all of the elements recited in claims 1-4. See remarks in Applicants' March 28, 2006 response summarizing the telephonic interview with the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 2 is allowable over Chou and Ito and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

The rejections to claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chou in view Saito are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Applicants submit that Chou is unavailable as prior art based on the perfection of foreign priority as discussed above.

Claims 5-7 each recites a back light unit having a combination of features including a plurality of lamps respectively having "a low voltage electrode and a high voltage electrode and arranged in the lamp housing so that the low voltage and the high voltage electrodes are alternately disposed in one side of the lamp housing." Applicants submit that Saito alone does not teach at least the above quoted combination of features. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 5-7 are allowable over Chou and Saito, and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 5-7 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are objected to by the Examiner as containing informalities. Claims 1 and 3-7 have been amended to remove the terminology objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Applicants believe application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the

Applicants' representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 9, 2006